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**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

09/810,380

**Applicant(s)**

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

**Examiner**

Tuan V Ho

**Art Unit**

2615

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-30 (renumbered as 1-7 respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/811,162.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Torrente on 11/03/04.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 6-23 are cancelled by the Examiner.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claim 24, an automatic focus adjusting device comprising control means arranged to cause the focusing lens to be driven by controlling the driving means according to the level of the sharpness signal, to store the position of the focusing lens obtained when the level of the sharpness signal reaches a maximum value and to have the focusing lens driven to the stored position of the focusing lens by causing a driving direction of the focusing lens to be reversed when the sharpness signal decreased from the maximum value by a predetermined level; and level control means for varying the predetermined level according to information on a state of driving the focusing lens.

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With regard to claim 27, an automatic focus adjusting device comprising control means arranged to cause the focusing lens to be driven by controlling the driving means according to the level of the sharpness signal, to store the position of the focusing lens obtained when the level of the sharpness signal reaches a maximum value and to have the focusing lens driven to the stored position of the focusing lens by causing a driving direction of the focusing lens to be reversed when the sharpness signal decreased from the maximum value by a predetermined level; and level control means arranged to vary the predetermined level according to the driving direction of the focusing lens and to decrease the predetermined level when the driving direction of the focusing lens have been reversed at least a predetermined number of times.

With regard to claim 29, an automatic focus adjusting device comprising control means arranged to cause the focusing lens to be driven by controlling the driving means according to the level of the sharpness signal, to store the position of the focusing lens obtained when the level of the sharpness signal reaches a maximum value and to have the focusing lens driven to the stored position of the focusing lens by causing a driving direction of the focusing lens to be reversed when the sharpness signal decreased from the maximum value by a predetermined

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level; and level control means for varying the predetermined level according to information on a state of driving the focusing lens and on the depth of field.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (703) 305-4943. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

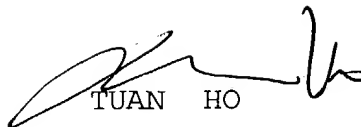
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen, can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

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TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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